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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Eleventh (pre-sessional) executive session
Geneva, 5 September 1995
Item 1 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Provisional agenda and annotations for the eleventh (pre-sessional) executive session of the Board

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda

2. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

   (a) Treatment of new States members of UNCTAD for purposes of elections;
   (b) Membership of the Trade and Development Board;
   (c) Membership of the Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Working Groups;
   (d) Membership of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget for 1996

3. Nomination of officers for the Bureau at the forty-second session of the Board and for the Sessional Committee at the first part of the forty-second session

4. Reports and activities of the subsidiary bodies of the Board: matters requiring action

5. Other business

6. Report of the Trade and Development Board on its eleventh (pre-sessional) executive session

GE.95-52882

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The rules of procedure of the Board are contained in TD/B/16/Rev.4 and Corr.1. The guidelines for the Trade and Development Board in executive session are annexed hereto.

Item 1 Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda for the eleventh (pre-sessional) executive session of the Board, as circulated at the Consultations of the Officer-in-Charge of UNCTAD on 13 July 1995, is contained in Section I above.

Documentation

TD/B/EX(11)/1	Provisional agenda for the eleventh (pre-sessional) executive session of the Board

Item 2 Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters

Item 2(a) Treatment of new States members of UNCTAD for purposes of elections

The membership of UNCTAD stands at 188 and is as reflected in document TD/B/42(1)/INF.1.

In connection with this item, attention is drawn to the fact that, at its eighteenth special session (11-15 December 1995), the Board will be required to make a formal recommendation to the Conference concerning the lists of States annexed to General Assembly resolution 1995(XIX). It is understood that States are allocated to these lists essentially for purposes of elections and other procedural matters.

On 18 November 1994, the Officer-in-Charge of UNCTAD addressed a communication to the Governments of the 23 States which had become members of UNCTAD since the seventh session of the Conference to ascertain their preference as to which list their country should be allocated. On 19 June 1995, he dispatched a reminder to the 14 States which had not yet replied.

Representatives of any of the States in the latter category are invited to use the occasion of the Board session to indicate their Government's wishes. Likewise, any State already included in a given list may apply for relocation to another list, should it so desire. Such information should be communicated to the secretariat urgently, to allow time for informal consultations prior to the Board session in December.

For ease of reference, the lists as presently constituted are annexed to document TD/B/42(1)/INF.1.

Documentation

TD/B/42(1)/INF.1 (pages 2-3)	Membership of UNCTAD
and annex	Lists of States annexed to General Assembly resolution 1995(XIX)

Item 2(b) Membership of the Trade and Development Board

The membership of the Board stands at 140 and is as reflected in document TD/B/42(1)/INF.1.

Documentation

TD/B/42(1)/INF.1 (pages 4-5)	Membership of the Trade and Development Board

Item 2(c) Membership of the Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Working Groups

The membership of the Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Working Groups, as at 21 August 1995, is reflected in document TD/B/42(1)/INF.2.

Any amendments or additions should be communicated to the Secretary of the Board.

Documentation

TD/B/42(1)/INF.2	Membership of the Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Working Groups

Item 2(d) Membership of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget for 1996

The Board will be required to establish the membership of the Working Party for 1996. In accordance with the provisions of Board decision 236(XXIII), the Working Party consists of 19 members, as follows: Lists A and C combined - 9 (Africa 3, Asia 3, Latin America 3); List B - 6; List D - 3; and China - 1.

No documentation

Item 3 Nomination of officers for the Bureau at the forty-second session of the Board and for the Sessional Committee at the first part of the forty-second session

At its ninth (pre-sessional) executive session, on 17 March 1995, the Board designated H.E. Mr. William Rossier (Switzerland) as President of the Trade and Development Board at its forty-second session.

In order to expedite proceedings at the opening of the first part of the forty-second session, the Board will seek nominations for the following posts:

- Bureau of the Board at the forty-second session

  (a) 10 Vice-Presidents

Lists A and C combined		6
	Asia 2	
	Africa 2	
	Latin America 2	
List B		3
List D		1

  (b) Rapporteur

List D	1

- Officers of the Sessional Committee at the first part of the forty-second session

  (a) Chairman

  (b) Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur

No documentation

Item 4(a) Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices, fourteenth session (6-10 March 1995)

The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices held its fourteenth session from 6 to 10 March 1995. In accordance with a decision taken by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts at its thirteenth session, the fourteenth session served as the preparatory body for the Third United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set (scheduled to be held from 13 to 21 November 1995).

The agreed conclusions adopted by the IGE on preparations for the Third Review Conference are contained in annex I to the report on the fourteenth session. The provisional agenda for the Conference is reproduced in annex II.

The outcome of the Third Review Conference will be reported to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session.

Documentation

TD/B/42(1)/3 TD/B/RBP/106	Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices on its fourteenth session

Item 4(b) Ad Hoc Working Group on the Role of Enterprises in Development, first session (3-7 April 1995) and second session (3-7 July 1995)

First session

At its first session (3-7 April 1995), the Ad Hoc Working Group considered the role of the State in creating an enabling environment for the promotion of entrepreneurship and the viable development of enterprises, especially SMEs, with reference to the following topics: (a) regulatory framework and incentives structures; (b) human resources development; (c) institution building and institutional support; (d) the informal sector and its integration into the formal economy. The Working Group also discussed export development and the role of SMEs, giving due consideration to possible advantages arising from the globalization process.

The secretariat's summary of the main points emanating from the discussions is contained in annex II to the report on the session. Particular attention is drawn to paragraph 33 of the summary, concerning suggestions for further studies.

Documentation

TD/B/42(1)/2 TD/B/WG.7/4	Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Role of Enterprises in Development on its first session

Second session

At its second session (3-7 July 1995), the Ad Hoc Working Group considered interactions between the development of SMEs and of capital markets and banking systems: (a) generation of domestic savings; and (b) access to capital markets and other sources of financing. In addition, the Group undertook the identification of areas where technical cooperation in support of policy development to enhance the role of SMEs could be strengthened.

The Board will have before it the final report of the Ad Hoc Working Group, which incorporates the report on the second session. The secretariat's summary of the substantive discussions at the second session is contained in annex I.

The conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Working Group at its second session are reproduced in Part One of the report. Attention is drawn to paragraph 8 of the conclusions and recommendations concerning topics for further analysis and study, as well as to paragraph 9 in which the Ad Hoc Working Group "considers that the results of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group, as reflected in its final report and in the report on its first session, provide useful inputs for the preparatory process for UNCTAD IX". In accordance with paragraph 10, the Board may wish to transmit the final report of the Ad Hoc Working Group to its eighteenth special session in December 1995 for consideration, including the question of any institutional follow-up.

Documentation

TD/B/42(1)/17 TD/B/WG.7/8	Final report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Role of Enterprises in Development, incorporating the report on its second session

Item 4(c) Commission on International Investment and Transnational Corporations, twenty-first session (24 -28 April 1995)

It will be recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 49/130, of 19 December 1994, decided that the Commission on Transnational Corporations should become a Commission of the Trade and Development Board and be renamed the Commission on International Investment and Transnational Corporations. The new terms of reference for the Commission were approved by the Trade and Development Board in its decision 425(XLI), of 31 March 1995.

The Commission held its first session under UNCTAD auspices (twenty-first session of the Commission) from 24 to 28 April 1995, and considered recent developments in international investment and transnational corporations; country and regional experiences in attracting foreign direct investment for development; and implementation of the programme on international investment and transnational corporations.

Attention is drawn to annex I to the report on the session, containing the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission concerning its future work - paragraph 6 of which requests the Trade and Development Board to explore the possibility of making the World Investment Report available in all official languages for the annual session of the Commission. Summaries of the informal

panel presentations which took place during the session are contained in annex II. The provisional agenda for the twenty-second session of the Commission is reproduced in annex III.

Documentation

TD/B/42(1)/4 TD/B/ITNC/6	Report of the Commission on International Investment and Transnational Corporations on its twenty-first session

Item 4(d) Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services Sectors in Developing Countries - Shipping, third session (6-9 June 1995)

At its third session (6-9 June 1995), the Standing Committee on Services (Shipping) addressed the questions of fostering competitive multinational transport services, and strengthening technical cooperation and human resources development. The Committee also reviewed its work programme, with special emphasis on preparations for UNCTAD IX.

Special attention is drawn to paragraphs 67-72 of the report on the session, constituting the Standing Committee's report to the Trade and Development Board on the review of its work programme. The Committee's discussions under this item are reflected in paragraphs 52-66.

In taking note of the report of the Standing Committee on its third session, the Board may wish to remit to its eighteenth special session in December the Committee's report to the Board on the review of its work programme, together with the report by the UNCTAD secretariat on the review of the work programme of the Standing Committee with special emphasis on the preparations for UNCTAD IX (TD/B/CN.4/48) as background material.

Documentation

TD/B/42(1)/5 TD/B/CN.4/50	Report of the Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services Sectors in Developing Countries - Shipping, on its third session

Item 4(e) Ad Hoc Working Group on Trade, Environment and Development, second session (6-9 June 1995)

At its second session (6-9 June 1995), the Ad Hoc Working Group on Trade, Environment and Development discussed effects of environmental policies, standards and regulations on market access and competitiveness, with special reference to developing countries, including the least developed among them, and in the light of UNCTAD empirical studies (item 2); and trade, environmental and development aspects of establishing and operating eco-labelling programmes (item 3).

Attention is drawn to the Chairman's summary of discussions, in annex I to the report on the session. Annex II contains the provisional agenda approved by the Ad Hoc Working Group for its third and final session (scheduled to be held 6-10 November 1995).

The Board's attention is also drawn to paragraph 24 of the report, concerning the offer of the Government of Finland to host a two-day seminar on trade, environment and development in Helsinki in January 1996, as part of the preparatory process for UNCTAD IX.

Documentation

TD/B/42(1)/6 TD/B/WG.6/7	Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Trade, Environment and Development on its second session

Item 4(f) Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation, third session (12-16 June 1995

The Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation devoted its third session to an analysis of the effects on the livelihood of the poor of elimination of trade barriers, increased competitiveness, trade flows, external shocks, diversification of exports, particularly of labour-intensive goods, and market access for such goods, as well as an analysis of the effectiveness and impact of international development cooperation for poverty alleviation, including the identification of impediments, innovative measures and effective strategies for reaching the poor. The Committee also reviewed the implementation of its work programme.

The Agreed Conclusions adopted by the Committee are contained in annex I to the report on the session. The Chairman's summary of the discussions during the informal segment is contained in annex II.

With regard to UNCTAD's future work on poverty alleviation, the Board's special attention is drawn to paragraphs 10-14 of the agreed conclusions in annex I, in paragraph 11 of which the Committee "has decided to transmit its recommendations and conclusions to UNCTAD IX, through the Trade and Development Board, for consideration and appropriate action." Attention is also drawn to paragraphs 39-49 of the Chairman's summary in annex II.

In the light of the above the Board, in taking note of the report of the Standing Committee on its third session, may wish to remit to its eighteenth special session in December 1995, for appropriate action, that part of the report concerning the implementations of the Committee's work programme and, as background documentation, the note by the UNCTAD secretariat concerning review of the implementation of the work programme and proposed future orientation of the work of the Committee (TD/B/CN.2/15).

Documentation

TD/B/42(1)10 TD/B/CN.2/16	Report of the Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation on its third session

Item 4(g) Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, third session (19-23 June 1995)

At its third session, the Standing Committee on ECDC considered the question of enlarging and deepening monetary, financial and investment cooperation among developing countries and promoting cooperation of the enterprise sectors of developing countries (item 3); and carried out an evaluation of major developments in the area of economic cooperation among developing countries, including implications of the Uruguay Round results on ECDC arrangements and regular consultations, technical support, assistance and skill development (item 4). The Committee also reviewed its work programme, with special emphasis on preparations for UNCTAD IX.

The agreed conclusions adopted by the Committee are contained in annex I to the report on the session. A summary of the informal presentations on agenda item 3 is provided in annex II. The Chairman's summary of discussions during the overall informal segment is contained in annex III.

With regard to the review of the Committee's work programme, the Board's special attention is drawn to paragraph 21 of the agreed conclusions (annex I) and to paragraphs 27-31 of the Chairman's summary (annex III).

In taking note of the report of the Standing Committee on its third session, the Board may wish to remit to its eighteenth special session in December, for further consideration and action, that part of the report reflecting the Committee's review of its work programme, together with the report prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat entitled "Review of the work programme of the Standing Committee on ECDC, with special emphasis on the preparations for UNCTAD IX" (TD/B/CN.3/15) as background material.

Documentation

TD/B/42(1)/7 TD/B/CN.3/16	Report of the Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries on its third session

Item 5 Other business

Item 6 Report of the Trade and Development Board on its eleventh (pre-sessional) executive session

In accordance with past practice, the Board may wish to authorize the Rapporteur, under the authority of the President, to prepare the report of the Board on its eleventh (pre-sessional) executive session.

Annex

GUIDELINES FOR THE EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD*

The Trade and Development Board in executive session

Pursuant to paragraph 67 of the Cartagena Commitment, the Trade and Development Board adopts the following guidelines for its meetings in executive session (hereafter referred to as "executive sessions of the Board").

1. The executive sessions of the Board will facilitate the strengthening of the policy function of the Board in adapting the organization's work to changing worldwide economic circumstances, reviewing work programmes and priorities, promoting greater efficiency and reacting to reports from its subsidiary bodies in order to give impetus to ongoing work.

2. The executive sessions will be convened at the level of Permanent Representatives at regular intervals, and at any time the President of the Board, in consultation with the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and with the member States, deems it necessary, in half-day or one day sessions. One of these sessions shall take place immediately before each part of the regular sessions of the Board. The agenda for each executive session of the Board will be agreed upon sufficiently in advance to ensure adequate preparation. Each executive session of the Board should be preceded by an appropriate consultative process.

3. The executive sessions of the Board may provide guidance to the subsidiary bodies of the Board and take action on the outcomes of the meetings of these bodies; take action on procedural and organizational matters; and provide timely preparation of the issues to be considered by the regular sessions of the Board.

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* Adopted by the Board at its 805th plenary meeting on 7 May 1992 (see TD/B/1323(Vol.II), part I, decision 398(XXXVIII), annex A).